

Suggested Hikes, Rides and Paddles!

Boston Harbor Islands

Boston Harbor Islands Welcome Center, 191W Atlantic Avs, Boston, MA 02110, (617) 223-8666

To help you plan your visit to DCR's Boston Harbor Islands, we offer the following suggested experiences that we think you might enjoy.

- **“Introductory”** are short and appropriate for most users, including families with children.
- **“Signature”** are recommended trail experiences. These may be longer or more difficult but highlight some of the best park features.

For a safe and enjoyable park experience please review the **Things to Know Before You Go** section at the end of this document.

Introductory Hike

Spectacle Island North Drumlin

Trailhead: Begin at the Spectacle Island Visitor Center **Lat/Long:** 42.322274, -70.987345

Distance: 1.8 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Spectacle Island is home to the highest point in the harbor, the North Drumlin. Start at the Visitor Center and head up the main path for a gradual approach. Relax at the gazebo and be rewarded with 360 degree views of the entire harbor.

Introductory Hike

Hike Peddock's Island

Trailhead: Begin at the Peddock's Island Welcome Center **Lat/Long:** 42.299570, -70.927440

Distance: 1.9 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: The island has incredible hiking trails with great vistas, tree lined paths, and lovely nature viewing. Start your hike at the Welcome Center and explore the trail network of East Head. Bring your camera and binoculars for spotting birds and a great photo opportunity of Boston Light.

Introductory Hike

Spectacle Island Perimeter Trail

Trailhead: Begin at the Spectacle Island Visitor Center **Lat/Long:** 42.322274, -70.987345

Distance: 1.7 miles **Difficulty:** Moderate

Brief Description: Hike your way around the entire island on an ADA accessible perimeter trail. Take in the incredible sights and sounds of Boston Harbor as you walk past islands, lighthouses, waterways, and the city skyline!

Things to Know Before You Go

- **Time, distance, difficulty.** The average hiker pace is estimated at 1.5 miles per hour. Most distances are round-trip. Plan conservatively, start early. Be aware of weather and sunset. Trail difficulty ratings based on ruggedness and gradient are *easy*, *moderate*, or *difficult*.
- **Wear weather appropriate clothing**, layer for temperature changes. Bring sunblock. Wear appropriate and sturdy footwear.
- **Parking at trailheads.** [Parking fees](#) may apply. Space may be limited. Be courteous to avoid blocking in others. Do not leave valuables in your car.
- **Bring a map and share your plans with someone.**
- **Drinking water** may not be available on site. Bring plenty!
- **Stay on designated trails.** Follow painted blazes and signs if available. Generally, double blazes indicate an intersection or direction change.
- **Pace & group size.** Keep your group together; hike only as fast as your group's slowest hiker or rider. Limit your group size to 12 people or fewer to lessen impacts.
- **Carry-in, carry-out all trash and personal belongings.** Follow the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. [More information here.](#)
- **Know which parks are pet friendly.** Dogs are not permitted in DCR Water Supply Protection areas (such as Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs) and certain state parks. Always keep your dog leashed, 10-foot maximum. Always pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly. [Complete guidelines here.](#)
- **Be aware of hunting seasons.** Wear blaze orange when appropriate. [More information here.](#)
- **Wear a bicycle helmet** while biking. Riders age 16 and under must wear a helmet. It is the law. [More information here.](#)

- **Wear your PFD** while boating. A Personal Flotation Device (PFD), or life preserver, must be worn by boaters age 12 and under; and canoeists/kayakers from Sept. 15-May 15. [More information here.](#)
 - **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.** Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. It is the law. [More information here.](#)
 - **Be aware some trails may not be well marked, and some may not be identified on a trail map.**
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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees over 450,000 acres of state parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, parkways, watershed lands, and dams across the Commonwealth. DCR's mission is to: *Protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.*